TL 2112

FRIENDS OF EAST TIMOR
PO BOX 693, CANNINGTON WA 6107, AUSTRALIA

12 January 1995

MEMBERSHIP & SUPPORTERS URGENT ACTION REQUEST
MR JOSÉ ANTONIO BELO
IMMEDIATE FEAR OF TORTURE OR EXECUTION

Dear friend of East Timor,

You have probably already heard through the media that on Monday (January 9) in Dili, East Timor, a peaceful demonstration outside the University elicited a brutal military response from Indonesian military who outnumbered the demonstrators by at least four to one. Approximately 24 young East Timorese were seized by police and soldiers and their whereabouts or wellbeing are as yet unclear.

However, the identity of one of the young people detained, a man whose life is probably the most in danger, is known to the outside world. Enclosed is a picture of **Mr José Antonio Belo**, a 22 year old East Timorese who was brutally beaten by Indonesian security forces in front of an Australian tourist from Darwin. This eye-witness saw José, an English student at the University of East Timor, being ferociously attacked by soldiers before he was dragged in much pain and distress to a military 4WD vehicle and thrown into the back. Three large Indonesian security men then climbed into the back of the van and continued the beating. The eye-witness was struck by the sound and the evident intensity of the blows and kicks which made the vehicle rock back and forth. The vehicle was then driven off to an unknown destination. This account of José's arrest was corroborated by a separate, unconnected source from inside the territory. There are grave fears for his life, and those of the other 23 subsequently detained. Amnesty International has prepared an immediate Urgent Action request regarding José and his compatriots, which we have enclosed. Whilst some of you have indicated on the membership form that you are unable to respond to urgent actions, it was felt that this case was severe and urgent enough to warrant a broad immediate appeal to *all* members.

Please, could you make the time to write a letter, or at least send the enclosed page with photo, to one or both of the following authorities:

Colonel Kiki Syahnakri
Markas Korem 164 / Wiradhana
Dili, Timor Timur
Indonesia (Dear Colonel)

Brigadier-General R.A. Ruchiatna
Pangdam IX / Udayana
Denpasar, Bali
Indonesia (Dear Brigadier-General)

Letters should briefly state your knowledge of the circumstances of the 'arrest' of the 24, giving José's name, and politely but firmly ask about their whereabouts, state of health, reason for detention, whether released or charged, and whether the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been allowed access to them.

Even better than letters are *telegrams*, if you can get to a Post Office. Use the same addresses, but omit the commanders' names (saves money). The purpose here would be to show the authorities IMMEDIATELY that the world knows that José and his friends' lives are in danger. Unfortunately we do not have fax numbers for these commanders, so telegrams are the quickest.

Please help. You can call me on 470 2688 if you need more info (or addresses). Many thanks!

Christine Faithful (for *Friends of East Timor, Western Australia)*